

Claims

1. Interface unit comprising:
 - a first component for establishing a connection to a radio network controller of a radio network sub-system by means of a first communication protocol,
 - a second component for establishing a connection to at least one access point of a wireless local area network by means of a second communication protocol,
 - a third component for converting the second communication protocol to the first communication protocol and for converting the first communication protocol to the second communication protocol,
 - a fourth component for providing data indicative of a load situation of at least one access point to the radio network controller.
2. The interface unit of claim 1, the first connection being a long distance connection, such as an ATM-type or IP-type connection.
3. The interface unit of claim 1, the second connection being a short distance connection, such as an Ethernet-type connection.
4. The interface unit of claim 1 further comprising a fifth component for balancing the load of a number of the access points being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network.
5. The interface unit of claim 1 further comprising a sixth component for hand over control of wireless terminals between the access points being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network.
6. A telecommunication system comprising:
 - a radio network controller for coupling to a core network and for coupling to one or more Node Bs,
 - a wireless local area network having a number of access points,

- an interface unit for coupling the access points to the radio network controller, the interface unit having a component for providing data indicative of a load situation of the access points to the radio network controller.
7. The telecommunication system of claim 6 further comprising a component for balancing the load of the access points being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network, the component for load balancing being comprised in the interface unit.
 8. The telecommunication system of claim 6 further comprising a component for hand over control of wireless terminals between access points being comprised within a logical cell of the wireless local area network.
 9. The telecommunication system of claim 8, the component for hand over control being comprised in the radio network controller.
 10. A telecommunication method comprising:
 - providing of a 3GPP/UMTS-type system having one or more radio network controllers,
 - providing of a wireless local area network-type system having a number of access points,
 - coupling of the wireless local area network-type system to the 3GPP UMTS-type system by interconnecting the at least one radio network controller and the access points by means of an interface unit.